

From: Michael Greenberg
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:18pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a programmer, the way in which Microsoft defines its APIs is incredibly important to me. The current settlement doesn't require advanced technical notification. If I am not informed of Microsoft's changes, it hurts my business.

In addition, the majority of my computers do not run Windows, though I do develop for it (most products are in fact cross-platform, allowing the client to choose). The current settlement does not open up Microsoft document standards -- which are more important to the common user than a APIs -- and allows Microsoft to insert deliberate incompatibilities (as it has done in the past [Word 97 to Word 2000, for instance]) forcing users to upgrade or to at least stick with the Microsoft platform. My ability to work in an environment that I choose is hindered by Microsoft's monopolistic practices, and the current settlement allocates no repair for this.

Most importantly, however, I fail to see any real method of enforcing the proposed changes. While I do not doubt the effectiveness of the Technical Committee in finding breaches by Microsoft, leaving the solution of such practices to the legal system holds no hope for reform. Already Microsoft has spent years contesting the very terms of this settlement, and it is certainly willing (and easily able) to combat every infringement lawsuit.

The above are but three of sundry reasons that the DOJ settlement must be more forceful.

Thank you,
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